

72nd Westminster Seminar – Westminster, March 2024

Press Release

[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK welcomes Delegates for the 72nd Westminster Seminar, hosted in the UK Houses of Parliament.

Tuesday 5 March 2024 – Next week the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) UK will welcome to Westminster sixty-seven delegates from twenty-nine legislatures, representing every region of the Commonwealth, for its annual flagship programme, the Westminster Seminar.

Timed to coincide with celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the modern Commonwealth on the 11th March, Westminster Seminar will be a celebration of the diversity and strength of democracy and parliaments within the Commonwealth. The Seminar is an opportunity for representatives from legislatures as diverse as the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands and the Parliament of Kenya to meet, network, and discuss issues of shared interest.

The theme of the Seminar will be effective parliaments, and the five-day programme will offer delegates an unparalleled opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of parliamentary democracy, practice and procedure.

It will serve as a platform for parliamentarians and clerks from across the Commonwealth to learn from one another, discuss shared experiences, and address the unique challenges they encounter in carrying out their parliamentary duties.

Over the course of the following days the delegates will meet and hear contributions from a range of expert speakers, including The Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, The Lord Speaker, Lord McFall, Dame Meg Hillier MP, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, and The Rt Hon. Dame Maria Miller MP, Chair of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK.

On the 14th and 15th March delegates from smaller and sub-national legislatures will travel to the Senedd in Wales to meet with peers from the Welsh parliament and discuss issues specific to devolved and smaller assemblies.

Sarah Dickson, Chief Executive of CPA UK, comments:

“Next week the whole of the Association is looking forward to welcoming parliamentarians and officials from across the Commonwealth to Westminster.

Now in its 72nd year, the Westminster Seminar offers a unique opportunity to meet with a diverse range of our Commonwealth colleagues, most of whom are newly elected or new to their roles. We will take stock of the challenges that we all face in our legislatures, and how we might work together to overcome them.”

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Notes to the Editor: CPA UK's core work is to build relationships with parliaments across the Commonwealth, including the UK's Overseas Territories, the UK Devolved Legislatures, and the Crown Dependencies, through a programme of parliamentary strengthening activities. CPA UK undertakes work at the request of other parliaments, and our programmes include both individual country activities and large-scale activities that bring together UK and Commonwealth parliamentarians and parliamentary officials.

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